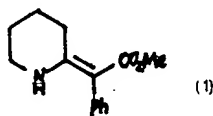


CLAIMS

1. A process for obtaining a single enantiomer of methylphenidate, which combines resolution with racemization of the unwanted enantiomer.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the single enantiomer obtained is the d-threo isomer, i.e. the isomer of (R,R) absolute configuration.
3. A process according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the racemization comprises heating the unwanted enantiomer with a carboxylic acid.
4. A process according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the racemization comprises the addition, to the unwanted enantiomer, of an aldehyde or ketone.
5. A process according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the racemization comprises dehydrogenation of the unwanted enantiomer, then hydrogenation of the resultant olefin.
6. A process according to claim 5, wherein the dehydrogenation comprises halogenation then dehydrohalogenation.
7. The olefin represented by formula 1



or an N-acyl or N-carbonyl derivative thereof.